

Article 34
Amendment

MAN/17322PCT

PCT/US 96/18477
IPEA/US 17 JUN 1998

What we Claim is:

Sub B7

1. A computer-executable system that selectively operates any of a plurality of independently-executable applications, the system comprising:
 - a user interface that transmits an instruction set having a plurality of instructions for selection by a user and receives at least one selected instruction based upon
 - 5 said instruction set, said at least one selected instruction designating a target application from a plurality of independently-executable computer applications;
 - a data retrieval interface that retrieves a plurality of data from a computer memory, said plurality of data based upon said at least one selected instruction;
 - a data interpreter that receives said data and said at least one selected
 - 10 instruction, said data interpreter translates said data into a plurality of actions with respect to said target application and said data; and
 - a target application interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and that selectively issues some of said plurality of actions for externally operating the target application and that relays feedback from the target application back through the
 - 15 data interpreter to the user interface.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said data additionally includes a video clip for the target application that the data interpreter passes to the user interface for display to the user.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein after externally operating the target application, the data interpreter selectively passes control of the target application to the user through the user interface.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the data interpreter further comprises: user instruction means, error message issuance means, and evaluation means, whereby tutorial feedback is provided to the user when the user has control of the target application.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a peripheral interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and selectively issues some of the actions for operating a peripheral device having an embedded instruction set and a communications port and that relays feedback from the peripheral device back through the data interpreter to the user interface, thereby demonstrating the operation of the peripheral device to the user.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein said data additionally includes a video clip for the peripheral device that the data interpreter passes to the user interface for display to the user.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein after externally operating the peripheral device, the data interpreter selectively passes control of the peripheral device to the user through the user interface.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data interpreter further comprises: user instruction means, error message issuance means, and evaluation means, whereby tutorial feedback is provided to the user when the user has control of the peripheral device.
9. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a host interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and that selectively issues some of the actions for directly operating a host system.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the data retrieval interface comprises:
a peripheral storage device controller for interfacing with a local storage device storing said data.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein the data retrieval interface comprises:
a network interface for accessing an other device over a network and for retrieving said data stored on said other device.
12. The system of claim 1, wherein the data retrieval interface comprises:
a wireless interface for accessing an other device over a wireless link and for retrieving said data stored on said other device.

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Sub 2) 13. A system that selectively operates any of a plurality of connected independently-operable peripheral devices, the system comprising:

5 a user interface that transmits an instruction set having a plurality of instructions for selection by a user and that received at least one selected instruction based upon said instruction set, said at least one selected instruction designating a target peripheral device from a plurality of independently-operable peripheral devices

a data retrieval interface that retrieves a plurality of data from a computer memory, said plurality of data based upon said at least one selected instruction;

10 a data interpreter that receives said plurality of data and said at least one selected instruction, said data interpreter translates said data into a plurality of actions with respect to aid target peripheral device and said plurality of data; and

15 a peripheral interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and selectively issues some of said actions for externally operating a peripheral device having an embedded instruction set and a communications port for interfacing with said peripheral interface and that relays feedback from the peripheral device back through the data interpreter to the user interface.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:

5 a target application interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and selectively issues some of said plurality of actions for operating a target application selected from a plurality of target applications and that relays feedback from the target application back through the data interpreter to the user interface.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein said data additionally includes a video clip for the target application that the data interpreter passes to the user interface for display to the user.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein after externally operating the target application, the data interpreter selectively passes control of the target application to the user through the user interface.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the data interpreter further comprises: user instruction means, error message issuance means, and evaluation means, whereby tutorial feedback is provided to the user when the user has control of the target application.

5 18. The system of claim 13, further comprising:
a host interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and selectively issues some of said plurality of actions for directing an operation of a host system.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the data retrieval interface comprises:
a peripheral storage device controller that interfaces with a local storage device for accessing said plurality of data.

20. The system of claim 13, wherein the data retrieval interface comprises:
a network interface for accessing an other device containing said plurality of data over a network.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the data retrieval interface comprises:
a wireless interface for accessing an other device containing said plurality of
data over a wireless link.

Sub B37 22. A computer-implemented method for selectively operating any of a plurality
of independently-executable computer applications, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving from a user a selected instruction from a set of instructions, the
selected instruction designating a target application from the plurality of executable
5 computer applications;
retrieving from a computer memory a plurality of data with respect to the
selected instruction;
translating the plurality of data into a plurality of actions with respect to the
target application;
10 transmitting the plurality of actions to the target application for externally
operating the target application; and
relaying feedback from the target application back to the user.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the plurality of data additionally includes
a video clip related to the target application, and further comprising the step of displaying
the video clip to the user.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein after externally operating the target
application, selectively passing control of the target application to the user.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: providing tutorial feedback to the user when the user has control of the target application.

26. A computerized, multimedia tutorial interface system for training a user to use any of a plurality of independently executable computer application software programs, the system comprising:

- 5 (a) computer application program selector, wherein the computer application software program selector receives an instruction from a user and causes the computerized, multimedia tutorial interface system to select a computer application software program from the plurality of independently executable computer application software programs;
- 10 (b) control display means for displaying a control window on a computer screen, the control window providing a plurality of instructions to a user that may be selected by the user, wherein the instructions include instructions for displaying audiovisual images describing operations of the selected computer application software program;
- 15 (c) instruction input means for receiving a user instruction from a user;
- (d) instruction interpretation means for receiving the user instruction from the instruction input means, for interpreting the user instruction based upon the selected computer application software program to generate an execution instruction, and for selectively issuing the execution instruction to element (e), (f) or (g) based upon the user instruction;
- 20 (e) audiovisual enablement means for receiving an execution instruction from the instruction interpretation means, for selectively retrieving audiovisual information responsive to the execution instruction, and for displaying the audiovisual information on at least a portion of a computer screen, wherein

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the audiovisual information includes audiovisual images describing operations of the selected computer application software program;

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- (f) computer application software interface means for receiving an execution instruction from the instruction interpretation means, for interfacing with the selected computer application software program, and for issuing simulated user input to the selected computer application program to execute a function of the selected computer application software program that is described in the audiovisual image; and

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- (g) computer application software control means for receiving an execution instruction from the instruction interpretation means, for causing the computerized, multimedia tutorial interface system to completely relinquish control to the computer application software program to allow a user to execute functions within the computer application software program, and for causing the computerized, multimedia tutorial interface system to gain control from the computer application software program based upon user input.

27. The computerized, multimedia training system of claim 25 further comprising:

- (a) user instruction monitoring means for monitoring user instructions issued to the instruction input means by a user.

28. The computerized, multimedia training system of claim 25 further comprising:

- 5 (a) error message issuance means for issuing an error message to a user on a computer screen if the user issues a user instruction to the instruction input means that is erroneous as compared to expected instructions.

29. The computerized, multimedia training system of claim 25 further comprising:

- 5 (a) evaluation means for evaluating the user instructions issued to the instruction input means by a user and for issuing a summary of the user's performance in issuing the user instructions.

30. The computerized, multimedia training system of claim 25 wherein the control display means comprises a display bar having commands selected from a group of commands including at least exit, rewind, goto, fast forward, stop, back, pause, and play.

31. The computerized, multimedia training system of claim 25 wherein the audiovisual information is displayed in a window on a computer screen adjacent to, and not overlying, the control window.

32. A computerized, multimedia tutorial interface method for training a user to use any of a plurality of independently executable computer application software programs, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying a list of the plurality of independently executable computer application software programs to a user;
- (b) receiving a software application program selection instruction from the user and, based upon the software application program selection instruction, selecting an application software program from the plurality of independently executable computer application software programs;
- (c) displaying a control window on a computer screen, the control window providing a plurality of instructions to a user that may be selected by the user, wherein the instructions include instructions for displaying audiovisual images describing operations of the selected computer application software program;
- (d) receiving a user instruction from a user;
- (e) based upon the selected computer application software program, interpreting the user instruction to generate an execution instruction;
- (f) based on the execution instruction and the selected computer application software program, selectively retrieving audiovisual information;
- (g) based on the execution instruction, displaying the audiovisual information on at least a portion of a computer screen, wherein the

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audiovisual information includes audiovisual images describing operations of the selected computer application software program;

- (h) based on the execution instruction, executing a function of the computer application software program that is described in the audiovisual information by issuing simulated user input to the selected computer application software program;

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- (i) based on the execution instruction, completely relinquishing control to the selected computer application software program to allow a user to execute functions within the selected computer application software program; and

- (j) based on user input, regaining control from the selected computer application software program.

33. The computerized, multimedia training method of claim 32 further comprising the step of:

- (a) monitoring user instructions issued by a user.

34. The computerized, multimedia training method of claim 33 further comprising the step of:

- (a) issuing an error message to a user on a computer screen if a user issues a user instruction that is erroneous as compared to reference user instructions.

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35. The computerized, multimedia training method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) evaluating the user instructions issued by a user; and
- (b) based upon the user instructions issued by the user, issuing a summary of the user's performance in issuing the user instructions.

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36. The computerized, multimedia training method of claim 32 wherein the step of displaying a control window on a computer screen includes displaying on a control bar commands selected from a group of commands including at least exit, rewind, goto, fast forward, stop, back, pause, and play.

37. The computerized, multimedia training method of claim 32 wherein in the step of displaying the audiovisual information on at least a portion of a computer screen, the audiovisual information is displayed in a window on a computer screen adjacent to, and not overlying, the control window.

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